

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 33-37, 40-44, 47-51 and 53-57 are pending in this patent application, with claims 33, 40, 47 and 53 being the independent claims. Claims 31, 32, 38, 39, 45 and 46 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and new claims 53-57 are added. These changes are intended to place all of the claims that were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claims into condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants graciously acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 43, 44, 47, 48 and 51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 33, 40 and 47 have been amended to place them in independent form thereby placing those claims in condition for allowance. In addition, new claim 53 has been added which corresponds to claim 34 written in independent form, therefore that claim is allowable. Claims 34-37 depend from allowable amended claim 33, claims 41-44 depend from allowable amended claim 40, claims 48-51 depend from allowable amended claim 47 and claims 54-57 depend from claim 53, and as a result those claims are also in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 31, 32, 35, 45, 46, 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,506,222 to Anderson ("Anderson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,421,757 to Basiliere ("Brasiliere"). Claims 31, 32, 45 and 46 have been canceled rendering this rejection moot with respect to those claims. Additionally, claim 35 depends from

allowable claim 33 and claims 49 and 50 depend from allowable claim 47, thereby rendering those claims allowable.

Next, claims 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,274,526 to Sims in view of Basiliere. Claims 38 and 39 have been canceled rendering this rejection moot with regard to those claims.

Finally, claims 31, 32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 46, 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,415 to Miller *et al.* in view of Basiliere. Claims 31, 32, 38, 39, 45 and 46 have been canceled rendering this rejection moot with respect to those claims. Additionally, claim 35 depends from allowable claim 33, claims 41 and 42 depend from allowable claim 40 and claims 49 and 50 depend from allowable claim 47, thereby rendering those claims allowable.

New Claims 53-57

Claims 53-57 are added by the foregoing amendment. As mentioned above, claim 53 corresponds to the previously pending claim 34 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, claim 53 is in condition for allowance. Claims 54-57 depend from and include all of the features of claim 53 and are therefore also in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by the addition of claims 53-57.

Conclusion

It is believed this amendment now has placed the application in condition for allowance. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0683 of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps.

Respectfully submitted,



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